



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - May 20, 2002

- ***In the West***, isolated showers are easing the threat of wildfires in the ***central and southern Rockies***, but otherwise having little impact on long-term drought. Drought also continues in the ***Southwest***, although irrigated summer crops continue to benefit from warm weather. Meanwhile, precipitation is overspreading ***northern California and the Northwest***, aiding pastures and rain-fed small grains.
- ***On the Plains***, cool weather lingers across the ***Dakotas***, further slowing the development of spring-sown crops. Mild weather prevails elsewhere in the region, although soil moisture shortages continue to adversely affect winter wheat and summer crops on the ***High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, frost and near- to below-freezing temperatures (near to below 32 degrees F) in the ***Great Lakes region*** are threatening blooming orchard crops and tender ground vegetation for the second consecutive morning. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, cool weather continues to hamper summer crop emergence and slow evaporation rates in wet fields, particularly in the saturated ***Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys***.
- ***In the South***, beneficial weekend showers from ***southern Texas to the southern Atlantic region*** eased irrigation requirements and aided heat- and drought-stressed dryland summer crops. Across the ***interior South***, soil moisture remains mostly favorable for pasture growth, winter grain maturation, and summer crop development.

Outlook: Across the ***East***, the early-week record cold will be followed by warmer, mostly dry weather, but showers will return to the ***Corn Belt*** during the latter half of the week. Meanwhile, showers and unseasonably cold weather will spread from the ***Northwest*** to the ***northern Rockies*** by mid-week. Dry weather will prevail across the ***Southwest, Delta, and Southeast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for May 25-29 calls for below-normal temperatures across most of the ***eastern half of the Nation***, while above-normal temperatures are expected for the ***West Coast and Rocky Mountain States***. Above-normal precipitation is expected in the ***Pacific Northwest, the northern Plains and upper Midwest, and the southern Rockies and adjacent High Plains***, while below-normal precipitation is expected for the ***Southwest, northern and central Rockies, and along the Gulf and southern Atlantic Coasts***.

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